

# *the Bridge*

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FINLANDIA  
UNIVERSITY



Donor Edition





From the President  
**PHILIP JOHNSON**

Greetings! Each autumn I marvel at how creation chooses to announce in brilliant shades of orange, yellow, red and gold, the coming of winter white. For us at Finlandia, fall 2014 announces the coming of a new season in a more profound way. We are taking up in earnest our new visioning document, Plan 2021. In it we envision Finlandia at 125 years of age. In the coming weeks we will post Plan 2021 on our website. Look for it. Here, I borrow from an opening page of the executive summary:

With bold visioning we have imagined Finlandia's best self. With rigorous planning we have charted a course for its fullest realization. We will, with collective resolve, work to realize its signature commitments and goals:

- be a learning community inspired and set apart by a clear and compelling vision
- to advance expansive learning that best prepares graduates for the 21st century workplace and world
- to meet and exceed rigorous standards for financial stability and resilience
- to enroll 700+ students who persist and graduate at historically high rates
- to become a full member of a preferred NCAA Division III regional conference
- to carry a strong brand and reputation locally and regionally
- to enhance and expand instructional, residential, and athletics facilities
- to establish a thoroughgoing culture of assessment for continuous improvement

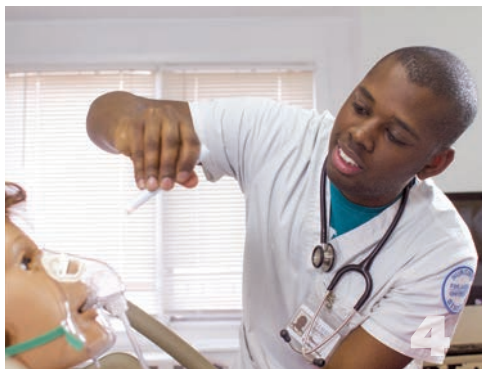
During the emergence of Plan 2021 I have been inspired by the courage and wisdom of Finlandia's Board of Trustees. I have been encouraged by the cohesion and shared determination of Finlandia's executive team. And, I remain continually grateful for faculty members, staff, and administrators whose creative work and deep dedication make daily differences in the personal growth and academic success of our students.

This donor issue reaches you at a time when many of us pause to reflect and give thanks. Let me offer one such reflection from my desk. Gratitude is life-giving. It is a way of being in the world that heals and energizes. When we live grateful, we are more productive at work and more able to empathize in relationships. We are more curious about others and the wider world. Gratitude grows our capacity for service, kindness and mercy. This is not unrelated to higher education as Finlandia has imagined it in Plan 2021: engaging the whole student—mind, heart and body. Our 21st-century workplaces and world need such graduates, men and women who grasp life and career, ultimately, as gift.

We have, in a whole host of ways, been given things and presented with opportunities we don't fully deserve or have not always fully merited. But even more importantly we live mindful of this: no matter how hard we have worked, how diligently we have studied, how long we have persisted, how valiantly we have overcome, our place in life and our successes along the way have always, in some measure, been made possible by others. And this is why I am grateful for you. Finlandia will not realize her highest aspirations without you, your good will, and your generosity. And those already achieved have, in great measure, been made possible by you. I lead in humble gratitude for Finlandia's friends and alumni.

Enjoy your read.

Philip Johnson  
President



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## **FINLANDIA** UNIVERSITY FINLANDIA.EDU

Karin J. Van Dyke  
Vice President for University Relations

Michael H. Babcock, Author/Editor  
Marketing and Communications

Brad Beaudette, Art Director  
Publications

Contributing Author  
Karen S. Johnson  
KJ Communications, LLC

Contributing Photographers  
Mark Riutta  
Defined Visuals

Al Heikkinen

the Bridge  
Finlandia University  
601 Quincy St.  
Hancock, MI 49930  
communications@finlandia.edu  
800-682-7604

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### **the Bridge Mailing List**

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update your mailing address, please  
call 906-487-7204 or e-mail  
lynne.sweeney@finlandia.edu.



### **Cover Photo:**

*Peter Isaacson reveals one side of the new Peace Pole located near the Chapel of St. Matthew on Finlandia University's campus. The Peace Pole was dedicated on September 25 in honor of the late Lauri Isaacson, a proud Finlandia alumnus and supporter who passed away in November 2013. The ceremony was attended by family, friends, staff, students and faculty members. Peter is Lauri's second oldest son. Learn more about this event on page 9 in the Campus News section of the Bridge.*





## PREPARING FOR INAUGURAL FOOTBALL SEASON

In April 2014 Finlandia University hired Tim Driscoll as the university's first head football coach, and preparation for the program's inaugural season is well underway.

Since being hired Driscoll has settled into life at Finlandia University, including setting up shop temporarily in the new Finlandia football office on the second floor of the Jutila Center. He's been on the road for weeks on end at camps, high schools and junior colleges working to field a team.

It paid off this fall when 17 student athletes donned Finlandia football equipment for practices. Those practices will continue right into the spring. Driscoll has also made two key hires for the program, including offensive coordinator Dan Mettlach.

"Dan is a great addition to our staff," said Driscoll. "He is a knowledgeable, energetic coach with great ties to the Upper Peninsula. As we start our program, he is a perfect fit as our offensive coordinator."

The two are familiar with each other from their time at Michigan Tech. Driscoll, who has been coaching collegiate football since 1990, coached the Huskies for 10 years as the team's defensive coordinator and assistant head coach. Mettlach was the Huskies starting quarterback, including captaining the 2004 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title run.

While at Michigan Tech, Driscoll helped lead one of the best defensive teams in the Midwest. The team allowed the least amount of total yards and total points in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Driscoll was also a key part of two GLIAC championships for the Huskies, which were earned in 2004 and 2012.

In addition, Driscoll coached at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, Jamestown College, Northern Michigan University, Fort Lewis College, North Dakota State College of Science and North Dakota State University. Other career highlights include being part of NCAA playoff-qualifying teams in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2004 and 2010, and being a part of the 1999 Pepsi Cola Bowl Championship team at North Dakota State College of Science, a team that finished second in the nation with a 10-0 record.

### 2015 MEN'S FOOTBALL

Sept	<b>5 Alma College</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
	12 UW – Oshkosh	1 pm
	19 UW– Whitewater	TBA
	<b>26 UW – Stevens Point</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
Oct.	3 TBA	TBA
	<b>10 Maranatha Baptist University</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
	17 Buffalo State College	TBA
	24 TBA	TBA
	31 Maranatha Baptist University	TBA
Nov.	7 TBA	TBA
	14 College of Mount St. Joseph	1 pm

*Home games listed bold. All times are local.*

*Schedule subject to change.*

Mettlach received his bachelor of science in business administration from Michigan Tech in 2005. While at MTU, Dan earned individual accolades as GLIAC First Team All-Conference, GLIAC Player of the Year and 2004 Daktronics HM All-American honors. After his collegiate career, Dan competed professionally in 2006 for the Evansville Bluecats of the United Indoor Football League. He then continued his education (while coaching) through Eastern Michigan University, where he received his master of science degree in sports management.

Mettlach has been coaching collegiate football since 2007, including 3 seasons (2007-2010) at Northern Michigan University. In 2011, Mettlach served as quarterbacks coach at Hillsdale College, helping the Chargers finish as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) champions. Most recently Mettlach served as the special teams coordinator / passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach for Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Joining Driscoll and Mettlach on the staff is Director of Football Operations Phil Milbrath, another former Michigan Tech product. Milbrath played running back for the Huskies, and was named a First Team All-American during his senior year (2010) when he averaged more than 140 yards per game.

"He was the first person we brought in after myself, and he's been a key part of our program," said Driscoll. "He's been wearing a lot of hats, helping to make sure things are going smoothly here."

The Finlandia University football program will play at the newly remodeled McAfee Field in Hancock. The program is the first of seven new athletic programs the school is adding in the next seven years. Currently Finlandia University is working to seek affiliation with a Midwest NCAA Division III athletic conference, something that would provide a boost to the university's student-athletes, both academically and athletically.



## 5 QUESTIONS WITH COACH DRISCOLL

### **With a long track record of success at Michigan Tech, what made you interested in crossing the canal to start the new program at Finlandia University?**

When the opportunity arose to come here and start this program from scratch, I looked at it and said to myself, "when do you get the opportunity to be at the very start of a football program?" From my talks with (Athletic Director) Chris Salani and other administrators at Finlandia, I felt like Finlandia was going to do this right. They're providing the opportunity needed with great facilities and equipment. I saw this, and still do see this, as a great opportunity to start something great. Also, as a U.P. guy, as a U.P. football guy, to give kids in our region the opportunity to play college football at the D-III level in the U.P. is something special. Those things all enticed me to take this opportunity.

### **With a completely clean slate in front of you, where did you begin this journey?**

Well, the first thing was to get people here. To make sure we have people in here that are going to work hard and compete. One of the first things was to bring in Phil Milbrath as our director of football operations, and get to work on hiring Dan Mettlach as our offensive coordinator. Then it was hitting the road and recruiting. There are really so many different things that come at you as a brand new program, and at the same time, I'm a first year head coach. It's been a great learning experience so far. We're just taking each day for what it is.

### **What will it take for your team to have success on the field?**

Aside from working hard to bring in players, we're also working to gain the support of our campus and local community. To an extent that's already

working, many of the places we've visited recruiting already knew our story, and were excited to hear more about the program. The next step for us is simply work hard. That's how you have success on the football field. We need to put in the work, and gauge ourselves from where we are to how much improvement we can make each day, and how much we can compete with each other to prepare for getting on the game field to compete with the other teams.

### **You and your family have made the choice to call Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula home, what are your favorite parts about living here?**

We love it up here. Aside from the football, this is simply a great small community to raise children in. We have three daughters that attend the local elementary school. The schools up here have been great. I also love being around the lake, the nature, the woods, just to see the seasons change every year. I grew up in the U.P., and I've always had a strong sense of pride for this area. I'm proud to call it home.

### **The Upper Peninsula of Michigan has a strong tradition of high quality high school football teams, do you see that as a focus for your recruiting efforts?**

Right now we're working hard to make ourselves extremely visible in the Upper Peninsula. We're driving all over the place. We coaches have seen every team in the Upper Peninsula play a game, which has been great. It's nice to get out there and get reacquainted with these coaches, and these communities. It's a unique opportunity for our staff without any of our own games to prepare for this fall. You usually don't get that kind of opportunity to recruit within your region.





## O'DONIS FOUND WHERE HE BELONGED

Unlike many high school seniors, O'Donis Person was well aware of what he wanted to do with his life after graduation. His calling was nursing.

With that in mind, he did exactly what he needed to do to prepare for his next step. He took courses to gain knowledge in the field, volunteered at local healthcare organizations and earned great grades to make sure nothing could get in his way.

Then he started really looking at where he was going to go after graduation.

"I was in a bind," he remembers, with a hint of a smile. "With a great GPA, and a lot of healthcare experience, I still couldn't find a school that was right for me that didn't have a waiting list."

He wanted to stay in Michigan. He needed a school that would give him the clinical experience he desired. A small student-to-teacher ratio was vital.

"That's when I found Finlandia," Person said. "Finlandia was great for me not only because there wasn't a waiting list, but it offered great pass rates for those taking the NCLEX for the first time, and the school offered three years of intensive clinical experience. I finally had found a place where I belonged."

He came to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula motivated and eager to earn his bachelors of science in nursing, and that's exactly what he did.

"I couldn't have asked for a better experience," he said, now with a full, confident smile on his face. "Finlandia allowed me to explore different hospitals throughout the Upper Peninsula, and meet tons of great people. I learned so much from the nurses I worked with."

Finlandia has abundant support from local healthcare organizations. Each one of these partners helps Finlandia students explore different areas of expertise that they might be interested in. From the American College of Surgeons Level II Verified Trauma Center of U.P. Health System – Marquette, to Aspirus Keweenaw's naturally focused "The Birth Place," Finlandia nursing students get a true variety of experiences.

"Pretty much every single aspect of nursing you'll find in the Finlandia clinical experience," Person said. "I love the fact that I was able to learn so much. The experience I got with hands-on action, not just watching the nurse do things.

***"I was able to do more than just take vitals, it was the massive experience that I got that made my time here at Finlandia worth it."***

Person earned his degree in May, and immediately moved to start his first career job as a psychiatric nurse at Sacred Heart University Hospital in Eugene, Oregon. That success at finding a job is a common trend for graduates of Finlandia's nursing program.

"After graduation, all of my classmates were able to work anywhere in the country," he said.

Finlandia's nursing program is one of just a few in the state without a waiting list, which has been a draw for many students from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It's also one of few that requires nearly 1,100 hours of clinical experience, a preferred learning style for many nursing students.

"Two of our program's many strengths are small class sizes, and number of clinical hours," said Johnna Therrian, Finlandia's nursing department chair. "Finlandia nursing classes are traditionally not over 32 students, and we require 1,080 clinical hours from sophomore to senior levels. Students have appreciated our small class sizes because their instructors get to know each student individually, and are able to identify their strengths and weaknesses in the classroom and clinical setting.

"Many of our graduates have revealed that our number of clinical hours have impressed employers and graduate programs. Also, Finlandia is one of the few nursing programs in the state without a

waiting list. Finlandia's nursing faculty is committed to making every student who graduates from our program not only well prepared for their chosen career, but, like O'Donis, excited to be a member of the nursing profession."

The experience is going to get even better for students in the near future as well. Vice President for Advancement & Enrollment Lenny Klaver is working extra time to secure funding for the future College of Health Sciences Building. The building is located in the former Hancock Central High School building just east of Finlandia on Quincy Street.



"Finlandia's vision for the College of Health Sciences is to lead the region in answering the call for well-prepared healthcare professionals in the U.P. of Michigan and beyond," Klaver said about the expansion of the school. "Anchored by the University's 30-year-old nursing program, the new location of the College of Health Sciences will be a state-of-the-art facility capable of serving a health sciences student population of 300-plus, provide program and facility resources for community healthcare providers, and expand Finlandia's outreach capacity with enhanced and expanded community and co-curricular spaces."

The project should be in the news throughout 2015 as the university focuses its efforts at the strategy laid out in Plan 2021 (see pages 16, 17).

"This is an important step forward for our nursing program, the College of Health Sciences and Finlandia as a whole," Klaver said.

Those interested in helping with the project are invited to speak with Klaver. He's available via e-mail at [lenny.klaver@finlandia.edu](mailto:lenny.klaver@finlandia.edu), or via phone at 906-487-7349.

Want to hear more from O'Donis? Check out the Finlandia University YouTube channel to watch O'Donis talk about his time here.





### FINLANDIA'S INCOMING CLASS UP 12 PERCENT

When the numbers were finalized this fall, it was quite clear there was reason for optimism at Finlandia as the university's incoming class is 12 percent larger than last year's incoming class of students.

"Seeing an increase in incoming students is a testimonial to the steps Finlandia is taking," said Lenny Klaver, vice president of advancement & enrollment. "Many factors came together to make this possible, including new tuition initiatives that make the university even more affordable, a new, highly motivated, enrollment team, and a newly developed strategy to address populations we weren't meeting as well as we'd like to."

The larger group of students means that Finlandia Hall is at full capacity this year. It's all a good sign for the future of Finlandia University.

### PHILOSOPHY DEGREE ADDED

The Finlandia University Board of Trustees has approved the addition of a philosophy major in the Suomi College of Arts & Sciences.

"The discipline of philosophy is at the heart of the liberal arts, and can help form the foundation for intellectual skill development while expanding human competencies," said Christine O'Neil, dean of the college. "By further developing a major and course offerings in philosophy, the Suomi College of Arts & Sciences is helping to reinforce Finlandia's larger goal of developing whole and integrated citizens."

The degree program has three components: philosophy core, topics in philosophy and history of philosophy. Many of the new courses will allow students in other programs to familiarize themselves to the ideals and ethics behind the study of philosophy relevant to their discipline.

"Implementing this major is an important step for us to carry on the traditional model of liberal arts education," said Casey Rentmeester, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy and religion. "The major is designed for students interested in cultivating the skill of reasoning well in ethical, political, religious or cultural contexts, which is beneficial in all aspects of life."

Rentmeester played an active role in designing the new program, and introducing it to the university.

"This is an obvious fit for Finlandia's mission of fostering intellectual challenge, and open dialogue in our students," he said. "For students interested in graduate studies in law, politics, business or the humanities, this degree will be a great place to develop their core skills."



### MAKING BUDGETING EASIER WITH LOCKED-IN AND FREE TUITION

Finlandia University has unveiled two new programs aimed at making a Finlandia University education even more affordable. The new programs are called Finlandia Four and Finlandia Future.

Finlandia Four locks in a student's tuition rate for four years, while Finlandia Future provides free tuition during a student's eighth semester.

"We're proud of the combination of a liberal arts-based and career-directed quality educational experience we provide to our students," said Lenny Klaver, vice president for advancement & enrollment. "With Finlandia Four and Finlandia Future, we're confident that more students will have the opportunity to join us at Finlandia."

The new programs began in September, and can be combined to save students thousands of dollars. Current students will be able to utilize Finlandia Four as well, locking in this year's tuition rate.

For more details on the two initiatives visit [finlandia.edu/tuition-initiatives](http://finlandia.edu/tuition-initiatives).





### NEW MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING PROGRAM FILLS GROWING SKILLS GAP

The Finlandia University Board of Trustees has approved the addition of an associate in applied science degree in medical billing and coding specialist to the Finlandia University College of Health Sciences.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our future students to join a rapidly growing field," said Dr. Cameron Williams, dean of the College of Health Sciences. "This expansion of the College of Health Sciences is a sign of progress for our community, both on campus and off."

The program has already accepted its first students with the first classes offered in fall 2014.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, this field is expected to grow by more than 20 percent in the next 10 years. The handbook says that growth rate is "much faster than average."

"With the passing and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the opportunities in this field are tremendous," said Pam Audette, program director of the certified medical assistant program. "Any healthcare setting is now mandated to use electronic health records, and our graduates will be well prepared to manage those records."

Graduates of the Finlandia University medical billing and coding specialist program will be eligible to sit for coding certificate exams "Certified Coding Specialist" and "Coding Specialist- Physician-Based" through the American Health Information Management Association. The program can also be used as a focus toward a cross-curricular 2+2 bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management through the Finlandia University International School of Business.

### FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY IS HUB OF FINNISH ARTWORK IN AMERICA

Seeing the list of names of artists that have recently exhibited at the Finlandia University Gallery you might think the gallery was actually located in Finland. The 2013-14 gallery roster included the work of Anna Alapuro, Marco Casagrande, Tatu Vuorio and Mikko Kallio. These contemporary Finnish artists shared their expertise with students and the community, and both the artists and the Finlandia community are richer for their interaction.

Most of these artists, such as Alapuro, who visited the gallery in September, actually make the trip to the U.S. for a reception. It's a unique draw for the artists, the Finnish American community, and especially for the students of Finlandia University, many of whom study in Finlandia's International School of Business or International School of Art & Design.

"It is really so important an experience to each Finnish artist to come to Hancock in connection with the exhibition," noted printmaker Anna Alapuro after her recent campus visit. "For us it was the second time, and we got again more out of it. It is amazing to realize that there is so strong a connection to Finnish culture, and people are so interested. I think that it is very valuable to keep that going. It works both ways, Finnish art is its own kind, and it is important to keep communicating."



"We're proud of our heritage as the only university in North America founded by Finnish immigrants," said Carrie Flaspohler, director of the Finlandia University Gallery. "Every year we do our best to honor that heritage by bringing in these world-class artists that are either from Finland or have strong Finnish ties. Their work is remarkable, and we're delighted to be able to showcase it."

Learn more about the gallery by visiting [finlandia.edu/art](http://finlandia.edu/art) and clicking "Finlandia University Gallery."

## MAKI LIBRARY IMPROVES SERVICES

The Sulo & Aileen Maki Library has had a transformative summer, and early fall for both library staff and library services. Martha Puska retired after 38 years of service as an administrative assistant and library technician. Martha worked closely with faculty, library work study students and donors. Her quick wit around the library is already missed. Erica Rouser, with a master's in library science and a second master's in public administration, has joined the library as the new assistant librarian. Serenity Schoonover, has joined the library staff as the evening library services assistant. Serenity has a master's in military history and has researched Finland's Winter War extensively. Rouser and Schoonover both have diverse academic backgrounds, and a variety of experience that has prepared them to help faculty and students with research in any subject area.

Library services have expanded as well. The library now has extended hours, open until midnight Sunday through Thursday, and there is always a library staff member available when the library is open. This fall the library joined MelCat, the Michigan-wide interlibrary loan service provided through the Library of Michigan, along with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. MelCat allows Finlandia patrons to initiate requests on their own, with the use of their library barcode, to borrow from hundreds of Michigan academic, public and school libraries. MelCat has allowed the library to share its wonderful collection with the greater Michigan community, including art books, curriculum guides, health science scholarly books and children books are among the most popular so far. The program has helped the library already surpass the total amount of interlibrary loan transactions from the academic year 2013-2014 at the beginning of October of this year. Please contact the library staff if you have any questions about MelCat. Finlandia patrons are always welcome to give library staff their interlibrary loan requests, and the library staff will fulfill them. The Library is also on Facebook, search for and "like" the Sulo & Aileen Maki Library.



## ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL DRAWS LARGE CROWD

The Calumet Theatre was buzzing this fall during the Sibelius Academy Music Festival Grand Finale Concert as students, community members and alumni watched yet another world-class musical performance here in the Keweenaw courtesy of Finlandia University.

The first performance was by classical pianist Kristina Annamukhamedova, who wowed the crowd with moment after moment of astonishingly intricate keystrokes, including a rousing rendition of "Finlandia, Op. 26, No. 7" composed by the famous Jean Sibelius. The second performance came from the five ladies of *Ensemble Norma* (pictured above), a vocal group that sang with a unique, playful attitude that included Finnish folklore, classical echoes and modern choreography.

Aside from the grand finale concert, there were a half dozen other performances, including a show in metro Chicago at the Estonian House, at the Bluffs Senior Living Community in Houghton and at Hancock Central High School. The musicians also enjoyed a day trip to Lake of the Clouds in Ontonagon County.

Check out photos from the event, and be the first to find out about the 2015 Sibelius Academy Music Festival, by visiting [finlandia.edu/sibelius](http://finlandia.edu/sibelius).

## LOCAL EDUCATORS TRAVEL TO FINLAND TO STUDY EDUCATION SYSTEM

Due to a generous donation from David and Elsa Brule, Finlandia was able to partner with local schools to send more than a dozen educators to Finland to observe and learn from Finland's education system.

The national education system in Finland is widely regarded as one of the strongest in the world, and the U.P. educators were able to go in classrooms in rural and urban Finland to bring ideas back to the region.

The educators were then tasked with leading educational sessions at the fall Copper Country Intermediate School District in-service day. Finlandia staff aided the group in presenting to their peers at the in-service, which included breakout sessions at the Jutila Center.



## ATHLETICS UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEBSITE

The Finlandia University athletics staff unveiled a new look to its website this fall. The website features a modern design, a design that translates better to mobile devices and is easier for users to navigate.

The website features all of the news, schedules, stats and rosters from Finlandia's 11 NCAA Division III athletic programs. Visit [fulions.com](http://fulions.com) to see the new design for yourself.



## CAMPUS MINISTRY BRINGS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY TO COMMUNITY

Finlandia University Campus Ministry and Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank worked together to host the inaugural mobile food pantry in Hancock in mid-September. The event was held in the parking lot of Old Main, and helped feed more than 1,400 people in need in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

"We know there are people in need in our community, and we're happy to help our neighbors in any way we can," Campus Pastor Soren Schmidt said.



## PONSSE CHAIRMAN PRESENTS AT FINLANDIA

Early this last semester international business leader Juha Vidgrén of Ponsse International presented at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Vidgrén told the story of Ponsse, a company started in a rural community in Finland. Ponsse now has 11 subsidiaries around the world, and does business in 40 countries.

"Ponsse is an excellent example of a family-owned company from a rural area that started small, but has grown to become a global enterprise," said Kevin Manninen, dean of the International School of Business at Finlandia University, and president of the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Upper Michigan, which helped bring Vidgrén to the U.P.

For a full recap of the presentation, search "Ponsse" at [finlandia.edu](http://finlandia.edu).



## PEACE POLE DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE LATE LAURI ISAACSON

On a late September evening the Finlandia community gathered to celebrate and honor the life of Lauri Isaacson, a 1957 graduate of Finlandia (then Suomi College) and former president of the Finlandia Alumni Board.

The pole is located next to the Chapel of St. Matthew, and proclaims "May Peace Prevail On Earth" on all four sides. The pole serves as a constant reminder for us to visualize and pray for world peace, a cause Isaacson was extremely passionate about.

Lauri's wife Judy, as well as family, friends and the Finlandia community attended the event. In memory of Lauri, Judy asks people to read the following quote from the late Archbishop Oscar Romero:

"Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."

# CREATING FRENZY OF MEMORIES



**CANAAN SMITH**



**M**usician Canaan Smith is in the midst of a big-time breakout in the country music scene, and one of his favorite moments this year may have happened right here in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. It was the moment when the entire audience sang along with his every word. That was the scene late one Sunday evening on Quincy Green as a relatively small, but passionate, crowd cheered on Canaan at the inaugural U.P. Fall Frenzy music festival.

"You guys are the best crowd I've ever played in front of, thank you," Smith told the crowd before stepping on the stage for a solo encore performance. "God bless you all, see you again soon."

Looking back at it a couple months later, it still stands out.

"That show will go down as one of my all-time favorites," Smith said. "What a great group of people to have singing along."

It was a proud moment for the burgeoning new artist, and a profound new beginning to a campus tradition for Finlandia students.

"I think this is something that Finlandia students moving forward will really be able to grasp on to and call their own," said Scott Vargas, one of the masterminds behind the event. "We see this as our own big event, Finlandia's student body doing something big in our community."

Vargas is a junior at Finlandia. He's the president of the Student Senate, on the hockey team and a double major honors student in business management and accounting in Finlandia's International School of Business.





## HANNAH BETHEL

"Aside from the intimate feeling created by our small class sizes, the biggest thing for me is that Finlandia is whatever you make of it," he said. "There are so many opportunities here, and students can accomplish whatever they want to. At other universities, I don't think I'd have had the opportunity I did here to put on an event of this scale. Finlandia almost feels like a business incubator for students."

The U.P. Fall Frenzy, which drew upwards of 400 people to Quincy Green, wasn't put together by Finlandia University staff or faculty, instead it was completely coordinated by Scott and five other volunteers from the Student Senate. They came up with the idea. They contacted the artists, which also included young and upcoming country music singer Hannah Bethel. They organized the logistics at Quincy Green. They attracted sponsors, and the list goes on.

"Managing a large-scale project like this gives you a lot of insight on how things work," Vargas said.

The group is hard at work now planning the 2015 U.P. Fall Frenzy, which they hope to coincide with a home football game. This new focus for the Student Senate isn't just on putting on memorable events, though.



"We're working to become the voice of the students to bring about positive changes on our campus," he said. "We know our students need more than great events, they need an opportunity to have their voice heard."

That will include bi-monthly forums with Finlandia's management team. It's an idea the senate had to help create opportunities for students to make a difference.

"We're working hard to make our student body more invested in Finlandia, and their experience at it," he said.

For more information on the Finlandia University Student Senate, search "Student Senate" at Finlandia.edu. Check out more photos from the U.P. Fall Frenzy by Liking Finlandia University on Facebook.



## EMERGING ARTIST

By Karen S. Johnson

**K**enyon Hansen, Finlandia University adjunct ceramics instructor, confesses that he wasn't a particularly motivated high school student ... until his senior year when he enrolled in an art class.

"I thought it would be easy and I could slack off," Hansen said of the art class. But when his mom learned that he was failing the class, she talked with his teacher, Tim Zablocki, about Hansen's interest in taking photos with a camera she had recently purchased.

So Zablocki set Hansen to building a simple pinhole camera out of construction paper and an oatmeal box. "It really fascinated me, pulled me into a place I never knew existed," said Hansen.

From that point on Hansen started showing up at school early and staying late. He discovered how his previously neglected classes could affect and influence his photography. His grades improved overall.

Which led to a scholarship to study photography at Northern Michigan University. "In four or five months, my life completely changed," Hansen recalled.

He completed three semesters at Northern, until the program's focus shifted to digital photography. He returned home, and that summer enrolled in a pottery class instructed by Zablocki. "Tim Zablocki introduced me to clay. I knew instantly that it was my medium," Hansen said.

Kenyon knew he wanted to study ceramics in depth, so he visited Finlandia. "What's great about Finlandia is all the personal attention," he said of his time as a student.

When he graduated in 2005, Bachelor of Fine Arts in hand, Hansen was certain that he wanted to be a potter. Since then, he has been traveling around the country, finding his voice and perfecting his craft.

His first stop was Mill Creek Pottery in Gresham, Wisconsin, with potter Simon Levin. The one-year apprenticeship with Levin was "the most important, the best thing I could have done when I left school," Hansen said.

"I came in contact with how to market and present myself professionally. I learned about packing, shipping, and loading and firing wood kilns. And, I discovered the value of writing about my work, documenting and photographing."

Hansen's second extended stop was as a resident artist at Center Street Clay in Sandwich, Illinois, outside of Chicago. "It was a period where I had the time to work without any interruptions; that was really important."

Then it was on to Penland School of Crafts in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to work with potters Shoko Teruyama and Matt Kelleher. "I worked in their studio, and they pushed me to apply for an Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts residency."

Hansen's work appeared on the cover of the December 2010 issue of *Ceramics Monthly* (pictured to right) for an exhibition he was part of, "Strictly Functional Pottery National." The issue also features an article he wrote demonstrating his techniques to make a thermos from clay.

Hansen was accepted for a two-year residency at The Bray, in Helena, Montana. "The Bray is a place a lot of people pay attention to; it's a gateway into the ceramics world. While there I got some exposure."

In 2013, *Ceramics Monthly* magazine selected Hansen as an emerging artist.

This September, Hansen's work was featured in a solo exhibit in the Harstook Gallery at Greenwich House Pottery in New York City. The exhibit's description reads, "Hansen's jars, coffee pots, mugs and teapots are some of the most original being made today."



Hansen is modest about his work, and declines to speculate why his work stands out. But he said he is "flattered by the amount of attention I've received. Landing on the cover of *Ceramics Monthly* and being named an emerging artist was a great honor, as was the New York City exhibit."

"My hope is that the pots I make can play a role and be a factor in a renewal of ritual," Hansen shared in his artist statement.

"One of the first things we do in the morning, and the last thing we do at night is to put our lips to a cup. It's an intimate moment," Hansen explained. "I believe that finely crafted handmade things can slow people down for a moment, offer beauty to people's mundane experiences."

As his Bray residency was coming to an end, Hansen was toying with the idea of teaching, testing the waters to see if it was something for him. So, when Denise Vandeville, dean of the Finlandia University International School of Art & Design, offered him an adjunct teaching position, he accepted.

"I'm glad to be back," Hansen said of returning to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where he grew up in Channing, near Crystal Falls. "It's a great place. Leaving for an extended period of time has allowed me to see it a little bit differently. I can really appreciate what's here now."

At Finlandia, Hansen teaches ceramic design classes, introducing the techniques and processes of working with clay. In his first months at Finlandia, he spent a lot of time cleaning the ceramics studio, assessing its potential and compiling a wish list, which he has begun fulfill.

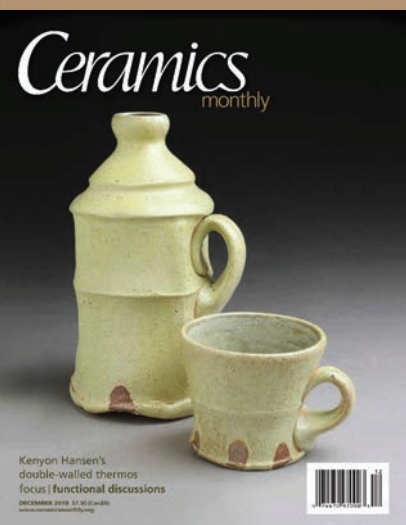
In spring 2013, Hansen threw, glazed and fired several hundred bowls for a fundraiser. The "Soup-a-Bowl" – all the bread and soup you can eat, served in a handmade bowl that is yours to keep, for a \$10 donation – was a success! Thanks to a donor who matched the event's proceeds, the clay studio has a new soda kiln.

The second annual "Soup-a-Bowl," in spring 2014, resulted in six new wheels, a new clay mixer and improved studio ventilation. Proceeds from the third annual "Soup-a-Bowl," in the works for spring 2015, will perhaps purchase new glaze bins.

Hansen will be busy until then. Right now, he's preparing for The Art School at Old Church Pottery Invitational, a huge show and sale in Demarest, New Jersey, outside of New York City, December 5-7.

He'll be selling his work in the ARTSTREAM Gallery, a nomadic art gallery built out of an old Air Stream camper, at the 2015 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Biennial, January 24 to March 29, in Providence, Rhode Island. In February 2015 he'll conduct a five-day workshop at University of California Santa Barbara. Additional 2015 exhibits of Hansen's work are scheduled at The Clay Studio, Philadelphia; Carbondale Clay Center, Carbondale, Colorado; and Schaller Gallery, St. Joseph, Michigan.

See Hansen's work online by searching "Kenyon Hansen Ceramics" on Facebook, or follow "KenyonHansen" on Instagram. Go to [finlandia.edu/bridge](http://finlandia.edu/bridge) to see the full December 2010 article Hansen penned for *Ceramics Monthly*.







## THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP HOUSE: BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

BY KAREN S. JOHNSON

**Servant  
Leadership**  
faith • vocation • service

*Top: Servant Leadership House residents pose for a photo with Director René Johnson (middle) in the living room of the recently renovated Servant Leadership House. The students are, from left, Shelby Winter (standing), Kathleen Janowiecki, Gina Geliche and Chelsea Blanck.*

*Right: Senior interior design student Gina Paulson stands in one of the bedrooms of the house. Paulson developed the Servant Leadership House renovation designs, and helped implement many of them, including the refinished dresser in the background of the photo.*

Since René Johnson came to Finlandia University in 2005, she has been dreaming of converting the former Robinson House into a Servant Leadership House. That dream began to take shape in the summer of 2013.

"Phil (President Johnson) and I were visiting Sharon (Miilu) Landree ('67) at her Ontonagon home and she expressed a longing to see the 'Robinson House' become a place for female students once again," explained Johnson, director of servant leadership and assistant professor of religion. "A program development grant opportunity from NetVUE had recently come across my desk and, inspired by Sharon's stories of how important that household living experience had been for her personal development, I thought this might be the perfect time to further develop the Servant Leadership Program at Finlandia, and resurrect the Robinson House as the Servant Leadership House."

Landree, a 1967 alumna of Suomi College, lived in the house with 11 other women in the 1966-1967 school year, and is still in contact with six of the women. "It was an amazing place to live," Landree recalled. "Living in a house created a family. We relied on each other in times of celebrations, exams, deaths, breakups and the up and downs of dating."

Now open, the Servant Leadership House, on Quincy Street two doors west of Old Main, is a student residential opportunity built on the core commitments of service, leadership and community. The relationship-driven living and learning community is for female students who are committed to personal growth and servant leadership as a means of building a vibrant and caring community.



"The aim of the endeavor is to present the girls with an opportunity to grow in discernment of self, others and community," said Johnson. "It creates a non-curricular servant leadership presence and brings the exploration of social justice topics to informal and campus-wide settings."

On October 4, as soon as they had running water and heat, four students – Chelsea Blanck, Gina Geliche, Kathleen Janowiecki and Shelby Winter – moved into the SL House.

"They worked every weekend and some weekday evenings painting and waiting for the kitchen and showers to be finished," Johnson noted. "They were brave, as the house was in a state of serious disrepair (before they moved in)." Improvements to the house include a new roof and retaining wall, plumbing updates, refinished floors, a new shower room and an updated kitchen. Exterior painting is underway. The major renovation work was completed by Houghton-based UJ Construction. The rest was accomplished thanks to university maintenance staff, generous donors and willing volunteers.

Through an internship and her interior design program diploma works project, senior Gina Paulson developed SL House renovation designs, contributed dozens of hands-on volunteer hours and will design concepts for renovation of the house's attic.

What is now the SL House has served many university functions, including a residence hall, a meeting place for international students, a child care center and a storage facility.

Fully furnished, the SL House has four bedrooms, two full baths, a full kitchen, common eating and living areas, and a washer and dryer. The residence fee, reduced due to the service commitments, includes utilities, phone and wireless internet. SL House residents may opt to purchase a Finlandia meal plan.

SL House students meet several eligibility requirements, including completion of at least 30 credits at Finlandia and a minimum GPA of 3.0, which must be maintained during residency.

Residents participate in and document the development and execution of community service goals, abide by the SL House core commitments, and also maintain their eligibility through campus and community engagement responsibilities.

Demonstrations of the first core commitment, service, include volunteering for community-wide service events and the selection of a social justice theme, which this year focuses on water issues. Leadership, the second core commitment, is exercised through building awareness and creating opportunities for others to grow in their capacity to serve the common good.

The young women will observe World Toilet Day, November 19, by posting flyers about the importance of sanitation, and they'll organize a fundraiser to send portable water purification filters to a community in a developing country. They'll host a viewing of the film, "Blue Gold: World Water Wars," and on January 21, the SL House will host a public lecture about the water footprint in our lives by Wendy Pabich, author of the book "Taking on Water."

For the community commitment, the young women have established a cooperative living code, which sets guidelines for the use of space and completion of chores, among other things. Each resident has also taken on specific responsibilities related to habits, home and hospitality. Finally, the women participate in regular resident

meetings and are mentored in their understanding of service, leadership and community by friends of the university. This year's mentors are Landree, Esther (Hillila) Nelson and Jaimianne Amicucci ('10).

Johnson explained that the model for the household commitments and the engagement with mentors is patterned after servant leadership houses that have been part of other university campuses since the late 1970s.

The Servant Leadership House is just one component of the NetVUE program development grant initiatives. Johnson is also working with three colleagues – Casey Rentmeester, assistant professor of philosophy and religion, Diane Miller, assistant professor of communication, and Mark Lounibos, assistant professor of English – to develop a template of Servant Leadership-related course

outcomes for faculty to consider incorporating into their classes.

Formed in 2009, the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) is a nationwide network of colleges and universities administered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), and funded by member dues and generous support from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Finlandia is among 36 NetVUE member institutions to receive a 2014 NetVUE program development grant to develop and expand existing campus programs for the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation. The \$49,740 grant is to be used between January 1, 2014, and January 31, 2016.

Johnson, as the grant's project leader, is coordinating the initiatives to promote curricular and co-curricular exploration of one's call to servant leadership more broadly across campus.

Please visit [finlandia.edu/bridge](http://finlandia.edu/bridge) to learn more about the Servant Leadership House mentorship program, including how you can get involved.



## A PROUD PAST AND A BRIGHT FUTURE:

HOW AND WHY INVESTING IN FINLANDIA MATTERS SO MUCH.



**A**s a recipient of *the Bridge*, you know so well what a truly special place Finlandia University has been for years. Whether in the past or present, the joining of people and Finlandia's mission of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service, one large family of alumni, friends, students, professors, staff, administrators, and partners has developed and endured.

If you think of the aggregate number of people through the years who comprise the Finlandia University / Suomi College family and couple that with the essence of higher education, one cannot help but realize significant impact. Indeed, we have a past of which to be proud.

By appreciating our past, it is my hope that such will inspire you to be involved in our future as well. It is indeed, a very bright future. On the opposite page to the right, an overview of Plan 2021, Finlandia University's new strategic plan for advancing the university, is presented. The Board of Trustees endorsed Plan 2021 at the fall board meeting. Underlying the vision, value and signature elements you will see, is an operational plan. The operational plan is the road map for achieving the basic tenets of Plan 2021. President Johnson and my colleagues on the

management team have worked diligently in planning to move Finlandia forward into the future. It is via the operational plan's goals, objectives, strategies and tactics that Plan 2021 will bear many positive results. Yes, a very bright future awaits Finlandia!

Accompanying Plan 2021 and the operational plan, is a comprehensive development plan. Yes, as you are thinking, it will take resources to move Finlandia into the future; resources that are of scope and magnitude never before embarked upon by the campus leadership and Board of Trustees. Resources necessary include funding for several capital improvements and additions to facilities, classrooms, laboratories and extracurricular offerings. As well, increases in the Finlandia (operations) Fund and building Finlandia's endowment are of crucial importance. A comprehensive fundraising effort is essential. Achieving results through these efforts will enhance our long-standing tradition of providing excellence in higher education, and transform Finlandia into a vibrant campus attractive to current and future students.

At Finlandia, where lives are transformed, your generosity plays a significant role. With your gifts, we can provide students with the very best that higher education at a small liberal arts campus in the upper Midwest can provide. It's the difference that matters. Finlandia is, as our new tagline states, "Where You Belong."

I assure you that we are well underway in the process of growing our enrollment as the center of Plan 2021. Our admissions team has already produced an increase of over 100 percent in applications for both the spring and fall semesters of 2015. President Johnson and I are in full swing of fundraising as well. Together, these efforts will transform the university so near and dear to our hearts. We ask that you will continue to 'belong' with the kind generosity that so many of you have demonstrated in the past.

As you read this edition of the *Bridge*, including the components of Plan 2021, we ask that you give strong consideration by making a financial commitment to help Finlandia achieve the potential the university possesses. Investing in young people through supporting higher education transforms lives and the greater good of society. That is what we do, and wish for you to be a part of, by treasuring Finlandia's past and building a very bright future. Making a gift now will make a significant difference. Thank you, and God's blessings to all.

Dr. Lenny R. Klaver  
Vice President for Advancement & Enrollment  
Phone: 906-487-7349  
E-mail: [lenny.klaver@finlandia.edu](mailto:lenny.klaver@finlandia.edu)





## PLAN 2021

### ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

- **WHOLE:** Finlandia will—as a whole community—accompany the whole student toward a whole life.
- **DISTINCT:** Finlandia will embrace and evolve her distinctives to be rooted and relevant, inclusive yet distinctive.
- **ENGAGED:** Finlandia will lead with others to create conditions in which neighboring communities grow and thrive.

### BUILDING OUR VALUE: THE INITIATIVES

- **ACADEMIC QUALITY:** We will advance expansive learning that best prepares graduates for the 21st-century work place and world.
- **STUDENT FOCUS:** We will be a learning community enrolling higher numbers of fully engaged and highly successful students.
- **IMAGE AND REPUTATION:** Finlandia University will hold a recognized university brand in the Upper Peninsula.
- **RESOURCES:** Finlandia will be marked by institutional health and resilience through good stewardship, investment and capacity-building.
- **INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:** We will implement an embedded, thoroughgoing culture of assessment across campus.

### SIGNATURE ELEMENTS

Plan 2021 expresses Finlandia's highest aspirations. With bold visioning we have imagined Finlandia's best self. With rigorous planning we have charted a course for its fullest realization. We will, with collective resolve, work diligently and confidently to realize these signature achievements:

- to be a learning community inspired and set apart by a clear and compelling vision
- to advance expansive learning that best prepares graduates for the 21st century workplace and world
- to meet and exceed rigorous standards for financial stability and resilience
- to enroll 700+ students who persist and graduate at historically high rates
- to become a full member of a preferred NCAA Division III regional conference
- to carry a strong brand and reputation locally and regionally
- to enhance and expand instructional, residential, and athletics facilities
- to establish a thoroughgoing culture of assessment for continuous improvement



# PLAN 2021 GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## OPERATING

- Curricular and Pedagogical Funds
- Faculty-Student Research
- Student Scholarships (Combination termed and endowed)
  - International School of Art & Design
  - International School of Business
  - College of Health Sciences
  - Suomi College of Arts & Sciences



## CAPITAL

- Classroom renovations
  - Mannerheim Hall
  - Nikander Hall
  - Wargelin Hall
  - Jutila Center Art Studios
- Laboratory Modernization
  - Life and Physical Sciences
  - Library and Computer Labs
  - College of Health Sciences – Medical Simulation Labs
- Student Learning Commons
- Chapel – Clergy Alumni Honor & Electronic Carillon Bell System
- Campus Electronic Communication Network (FINNTV)
- College of Health Sciences (full building renovation)
- Paavo Nurmi Athletic Center
- Home and Hall (Finnish American Heritage Center expansion)
- Finlandia Athletics Complex Completion (McAfee Field area)
- Houghton County Ice Arena Renovation & Upgrades
- Residence Hall Expansion
- Central Campus Terrace facelift
- Old Main Historical Restoration
- Hoover Center Historical Restoration
- New Admissions and Business Services Building

## ENDOWMENT

- Funding to enhance the long-range future of Finlandia

Numerous program, space and facility naming opportunities exist. Gifts of cash, securities, property, bequests and other deferred gift options are available. Help Finlandia University embolden its historic past and build a proud and bright future!





## DONOR RECOGNITION

In each donor edition of the Bridge, we are pleased to recognize and thank the many individuals, organizations, churches, clubs, associations and businesses that generously donated to Finlandia University in the preceding fiscal year ending June 30. Some have pledged deferred giving, or named the university in their wills. Some have given in memory of loved ones or to honor a special date, event or person.

Others have made donations out of a sense of loyalty—cherishing their time at Finlandia University or Suomi College. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers of our friends and alumni, and for their gifts in support of our students' educational goals.

Sincere thanks to all who have supported Finlandia University between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, and in years past.

## CUMULATIVE GIVING

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

(\$50,000 AND ABOVE)

Lifetime membership in the President's Circle is granted to those who have given \$50,000 or more to Finlandia University during any five-year period, and to those who have named the university in their estate plans for \$50,000 or more and informed the university of their intentions. The list excludes deceased President's Circle donors and entities which no longer exist.

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## DISTINGUISHED GIVING

## NIKANDER CLUB

(\$10,000 AND ABOVE)

Juho Kustaa Nikander (1855–1919), born in Lammi, Finland, helped found Suomi College and served as president from 1896 to 1919. An ordained Lutheran pastor, Nikander traveled to the Copper Country from Finland in the fall of 1884. As a national leader of Finnish-American communities, he helped advance local congregations and fight the discrimination many of the immigrants faced.

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## NISONEN ASSOCIATES COUNCIL

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

In 1922 Martti Nisonen (1891–1946) left Finland with his wife and four children to become Suomi College's music instructor. He created a music program that drew many Finnish-American musicians. A noted composer and arranger of cantatas, operas and several orchestral works, Nisonen is remembered as a tireless and dedicated instructor, not only of music, but also of cultural and moral development.

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## WARGELIN COUNCIL

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

Dr. John Wargelin (1881–1970) was president of Suomi College from 1919 to 1927 and 1930 to 1937. In 1896, at the age of 15, Wargelin enrolled in the college's first class, graduating in 1904. In 1906 he graduated from Suomi's former seminary. Wargelin served as a Suomi College trustee for 36 years. In 1966 the university's library and science building was officially named for him.

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## WAINO "POP" LEHTO LEAGUE

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

Waino "Pop" Lehto graduated from Suomi College in 1918. From 1920 until 1962 he served as instructor and dean of the business, commerce and liberal arts programs at Suomi College.

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## OLD MAIN SOCIETY

(\$500-\$999)

Built in 1899, for many years Old Main was the sole Suomi College building. In its early years it housed classrooms, a chapel, offices, a cafeteria and a dormitory. Today it is the home of administrative offices.

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Quincy Mining Company helped develop the region that Finlandia University serves. The company employed thousands of Finnish immigrants, including many who helped establish and support Suomi College. Finlandia University's campus on Quincy Street in Hancock sits on a hillside once mined by the Quincy Mining Company.

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**(\$100-\$249)**

Minnie Perttula-Maki (1880-1957) was Suomi College's only woman president to date, serving from 1922 to 1923. She was born in Lohtaja, Finland, and was a member of the college's first class, graduating in 1904. She continued her education in Chicago, Duluth and at the University of Helsinki.

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 MR RALPH C PIZZI  
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PFIZER INC  
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## IN HONOR OF... a special date, event, or person

**Sigrid Bartelli's 95th Birthday**  
Mrs. Sandra Bartelli Witt  
**Shannon & DJ Boyd**  
Dr. Kenneth Seaton  
**Mary & Charles Brush**  
Dr. Kenneth Seaton  
**Robert Grame**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Haessler  
**Shelby & Doug Hamar**  
Dr. Kenneth Seaton  
**Anneli Johnson's Family**  
Ms. Anneli Johnson

**George Johnson's 80th Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Johnson  
**Philip Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. O.C. Boldt  
**Philip Johnson's 25th Anniversary of Ordination**  
Mrs. Jane Lepisto  
**Bessie Kangas**  
Ms. Judith Wilson  
**Barbara Kaare Lopez**  
Mrs. Mayme Kaare  
**Roger & Karen Mattson's 50th Wedding Anniversary**  
Mrs. Jane Lepisto

**Sandra Michel**  
Dr. Kenneth Seaton  
**Ken Seaton**  
Mrs. Sandra Seaton Michel  
**Bishop Thomas & Luanne Skrenes**  
Pastor Robert Sutherland  
**Vera & Willard Strangle**  
Mr. Stanley Strangle  
**Mr. & Mrs. J. Howard Tamminen's Son & Grandchildren**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Howard Tamminen

## MEMORIALS... given in memory of friends and loved ones

**James E. Ahola**  
Mrs. Christine Ahola  
**Charles J. Anderson**  
Ms. June Anderson  
**Richard C. Anderson**  
Mrs. Maureen Anderson  
**Captain William & Helen App**  
Mr. Dale App

**Marie A. Appold**  
Mr. Frederick Appold  
**Mr. & Mrs. Henry Aune**  
Mrs. Ann Marie MacBride  
**Einar & Aune Autio**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Boushelle  
**Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Becvar**  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hosteland

**Sofia O. Bernhardt**  
Dr. & Mrs. James Bernhardt  
**Clarence M. Bjork**  
Dr. & Mrs. Cary Bjork  
**George & Ina Bloom**  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Eldredge  
**Lyme S. Broemer**  
Ms. Marlene Broemer

**Signe Makinen Churan**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Morrissey  
**David Dearmyer**  
Mr. David Swanstrom  
**Scott Dickson**  
Rev. Paul Nomellini

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Mr. & Mrs. John Drake

### Edith (Turpeinen) Dreelan

Ms. Elizabeth Hakola

### Elsa Dross

Mrs. Eunice Keljo

### Dorothy Ray Dunneback

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Nominelli

### Elma Lydia Siiterson Eakins

Mr. & Mrs. John Eakins

### Arthur & Ellen Ecola

Mrs. Kristine Ecola Macudzinski

Mrs. Susanna Ecola Trittschuh

### Eric & Hilda Eklund

Mrs. Charlotte Lytikainen

### Gordon Elson

Hirvonen Family: Ray & Rachel  
Hirvonen, Linda Hirvonen & Michael  
Allkins, Matt Hirvonen & Kathy Ball,  
Mark Hirvonen & Kathy Blake

### Arnie Enberg

Mr. Richard Enberg

### Raymond N. Erkkila & Helen St. Arnaud Erkkila

Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Erkkila

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Mrs. Marlene Houle

### Robert Foster

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### Irja Frenzen

Mr. Donald Frenzen

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Mrs. P. Hannele Haapala

### Irene Haapanen

Mrs. Beatrice Haapanen

Miss Edna Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Pajula

### Edwin Hakala

Mrs. Joann Hakala

### Bob Haldeman

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Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rostollan

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Mrs. Esther Nelson

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### Toivo & Helen Harju

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### Roy Alan & Lorraine Heino

Mrs. Isabelle Heino

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Mr. Eric Johnson

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### Dr. Richard W. Hibler

Mrs. Annette Hibler

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Rev. John Piirto

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### Arthur & Martha Hill

Mrs. Mildred Pyorala

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### Paavo Hilska

Rev. & Mrs. Leslie Niemi

### Luella M. Hilston

Mr. Charles Hilston

### Dr. & Mrs. Walter S. Holmlund

Mr. & Mrs. Delmar Shevy

### Mary Huhta

Ms. Jean Chapman

### Arthur & Elma Huhtala

Mrs. Helen Huhtala Cummings

### Edward E. Isaac

Mrs. Norma Isaac Sarver

### Rev. Edward J. Isaac

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph Kempainen

### Rev. Edward & Mrs. Tyyne Isaac

Mrs. Norma Isaac Sarver

### Lauri Isaacson

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Helman

Mrs. Judy Isaacson

Dr. Jeanne & Rev. Dale Kempainen

Mr. Mark McGree

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### Aune & Ahti Jaakkola

Mr. Frederic Jaakkola

### Gloria Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. Masa Riikonen

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Mrs. Ellen Canterbury

### Kim I. Poikonen Jarvi

Mr. Glenn Jarvi

### Rev. N.M. Joensuu

Mrs. Mary Ann Wanhala

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Ms. Maria Hill

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Mr. & Mrs. Paavo Pelkonen

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Mrs. Lois Stierna

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### Helen Helvi Maki Kirk

Mrs. Linda Warpula Davis

### Kerttu Kangas Kivimaki

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Mrs. Laina Koljonen

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### Rosemary Koski

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Rev. Jerry Kuehn

### Aini Kasari Kulma

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### Rev. Antti A. Lepisto

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Mr. Lauri Koski

Mrs. Jane Lepisto

Mr. & Mrs. Paavo Pelkonen

Dr. & Mrs. Martin Saarinen

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### Veikko Lepisto

Mrs. Jane Lepisto

### William Lepisto

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Mr. Donald Liljequist

### Melodie Luoma

Mrs. Hertha Holfeld

### Rev. Leslie Lurvie

Mrs. Mary Ann Wanhala

### Helen S. (Ollikka) Mackey

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### Toivo Malila

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### Nick & Hilda Mannisto

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Mrs. Mona Elliott

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Mr. Kenneth Moilanen

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Mrs. Mildred Stenlund

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### Arthur Niemi

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### Michael J. Niemi

Rev. & Mrs. Leslie Niemi

### Karl, Helmi & Eric Nissi

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### Reino Nurmi

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### Ruth Bergh Olson

Mr. & Mrs. Arvid Parssinen

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Washington

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Mrs. Karen Rowe Boggio

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Mr. & Mrs. Duane Rogers

### Nestor Salminen

Rev. & Mrs. Leslie Niemi

### Toivo & Aili Salo

Ms. Joyce Hassler

### Waino Salo

Rev. & Mrs. Leslie Niemi

### John Selim Salomaa

Ms. Joanne Menice

### Marjatta Salonen

The Hon. Bert Salonen

### Albert Samuel

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Wuori

### Edward Sandberg

Mrs. Evelyn Sandberg

### Wiljo Sarkela

Mrs. Marie Sarkela

### Dr. Arnold F. Sarya

Mrs. Connie Sarya

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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hosteland

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Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Schulbach

### Lois E. Seaton

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brush

Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph Kempainen

Mrs. Sandra Seaton Michel

### Lucille Seaton

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seaton

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The Finnish American Historical archive received 164 donations in the past year, containing several large and significant collections. They include a painting by Peder Kitti, parish records and correspondences, Suomi College textbooks, letters from Finland illustrating the hardships of the post-WWII years, local and regional history books, family journals, materials related to the Ontonagon Farmers Cooperative, a bottle of rectified oil of turpentine sold by Suomi Apteekki in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and a loom hook devised by Elias Lammi in the woolen mills of Fitchburg from the early 1900s.

The largest recently received collections consist of a collection of military materials from the Continuation War, the cross from atop the former Evangelical Lutheran Church in Green, Michigan, copies of church records from Reliance, Wyoming, and materials from Suomi Synod Pastor Amos Marin and Laestadian historian Carl Kulla.

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The Finnish American Heritage Center is committed to the collection and preservation of all Finnish-North American history, and we invite donors to contact us regarding possible gifts. In particular, we encourage the donation of original and irreplaceable records and documents, such as diaries, journals, letters, society minutes and photographs. Please direct queries to Archivist Joanna Chopp at joanna.chopp@finlandia.edu or 906-487-7347. Patrons can see regular updates of heritage center activity by visiting the FAHC's Facebook page or Twitter account, where special events and some donations are posted.

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### **NICHOLE TIGGS NOW LEADING WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM**

Nichole Tiggs is the new head coach of the Finlandia women's soccer team. Tiggs is a former NCAA Division I player and assistant coach.

Tiggs served as an assistant for University of North Dakota for five years after completing her collegiate career at Indiana State University. Tiggs is the all-time point scorer and goal scorer for the Sycamores, where she also holds the record for shots in a single season.

"I am excited to join the Finlandia Lions family," Tiggs said. "I am honored and most appreciative of the opportunity afforded to me by President Philip Johnson and Director of Athletics Chris Salani. I look forward to being in position to compete both on and off the field with the resources, support and people that care in the growth of student-athletes. My staff and I will do everything in our power to put Finlandia on the map as a competitive soccer program and make the Finlandia community proud."

### **O'DONNELL RETURNS TO FINLANDIA AS MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH**

Three-time U.P. Coach of the Year Mike O'Donnell has been named the head coach of the Finlandia University men's basketball program.

"We're extremely excited to have Mike come back and be a part of the Finlandia Lions family once again," Director of Athletics Chris Salani said. "The successes he's had as a basketball coach, and as a teacher exemplify what we want from our student athletes."

O'Donnell is a 2004 graduate of Finlandia University, where he was a four-year letter winner and captain of the Lions basketball team.

"Being able to come back to my alma mater is something I'm extremely excited about," he said. "This is a place where I had success as a player and a student, and I hope to help my players learn to be successful not only on the court, but in the classroom as well."

O'Donnell was on the Lions team that won the 2001 Small College National Tournament. In fact, he was named the tournament's MVP as a sophomore. The accolades followed him to Negaunee Public Schools, where he served as an elementary

school teacher and varsity head coach. He was named 2013 Negaunee Schools Teacher of the Year, as well as Class ABC Coach of the Year by the Upper Peninsula Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association in 2008, 2013 and 2014.

### **DANE LITKE FINLANDIA'S NEW MEN'S HOCKEY COACH**

Former NCAA Division I champion Dane Litke has been named head coach of the Finlandia University men's hockey program.

"I am very excited about becoming Finlandia's head hockey coach," Litke said. "This is a great opportunity for my family and me."

Litke brings a head coaching record of 158 wins, 103 losses, and 25 ties to Finlandia. During his time coaching, Litke coached one national championship runner-up and two North American Hockey League (NAHL) division title teams, while earning NAHL Coach of the Year honors during the 2009-10 season.

Litke played his collegiate hockey at North Dakota from 1993-97, including playing for the 1997 national championship team. Litke was a two-time captain, and was named to the All-Academic Team for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons. He also earned All-WCHA Third Team Defenseman in the 1996-97 season.



### **BRENT CHASE NAMED MEN'S SOCCER COACH, LEADS TEAM TO HISTORIC SEASON**

This March Brent Chase was named the new head coach of the men's soccer program, and his first season was quite successful as the team won more games than any other in program history.

Chase spent the last seven years assisting the Ohio Dominican men's soccer program, where he helped the NCAA Division II Panthers to an overall record of 63-32-15.

"We're extremely excited to bring Brent and his young family into our athletics and campus community," said Chris Salani, director of athletics. "From his outstanding experiences as a coach in the upper Midwest and the winning background that he's helped develop at Ohio Dominican, we're looking forward to his efforts of establishing a solid foundation for competitive collegiate men's soccer at Finlandia."





### FINLANDIA INVESTING \$1 MILLION INTO PAAVO NURMI ATHLETIC CENTER

Construction is well underway on Finlandia's \$1 million investment in the 1969-built Paavo Nurmi Athletic Center. The renovation includes a new state-of-the-art 5,000-square-foot strength and fitness center, 1,200-square-foot aerobic studio, student lounge and lab, revamped locker rooms including varsity locker room space and an overhauled sports medicine suite.



"This is an exciting time at Finlandia University," said Chris Salani, director of athletics. "We worked collaboratively with many of our facility's users, and members of our community, to create an environment that will enhance the experience

for our students, allow our student athletes to properly train with top-of-the-line equipment and provide our community members with an opportunity to improve their wellness here in Hancock."

The project includes \$350,000 in new equipment that will be available to students, faculty, staff and the Copper Country community. When completed, new aerobic and fitness programming will be offered for community members. Like "Finlandia Lions" on Facebook to see updates on the project.



*Pictured above is the Paavo Nurmi Athletic Center, including an exterior shot (top), the now-covered indoor pool (middle) that will house the 5,000-square-foot strength and fitness center and the old locker room area (bottom).*

### FINLANDIA BASKETBALL TO SCHEDULE WITH THE UMAC FROM 2015-2017

Finlandia University Director of Athletics Chris Salani announced late this summer that the men's and women's basketball teams will be added to the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) schedule for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons.

"This scheduling agreement with the UMAC is a very exciting opportunity for not just our men's and women's basketball programs, but also for our athletics program and campus community as a whole," Salani said. "Having the ability to host and welcome UMAC member schools to our campus, who have not been to Hancock before, will hopefully help to further engage Finlandia athletics with the membership of the UMAC - which we hope will be a catalyst for future developments with the conference. As we've targeted and openly stated previously, it is a future goal of our athletics program to be able to make application to the UMAC for membership, and we see this scheduling opportunity as the first positive step toward our future ambitions with the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference."

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## ALEXIS LAWLEY

### FIRST FINLANDIA ALL-AMERICAN

***“WHAT SHE WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR WILL CONTINUE TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR FUTURE STUDENT ATHLETES IN OUR PROGRAM.”***

***– COACH BRITTANY WILLIAMS***

**F**inlandia's Alexis Lawley has been named to the 2014 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American Third Team, which was announced at the 2014 NCAA Division III National Championship banquet.

Lawley becomes the first player in Finlandia NCAA history to earn All-American recognition. It was a magical season for the senior, who ended up leading NCAA Division III in hitting, with a .574 batting average.

This season, along with batting average, Lawley led the Lions in hits (58), doubles (13), home runs (9), RBI (27), slugging percentage (.970), on-base percentage (.624) and being hit by a pitch (4). Her slugging percentage and on-base percentage ranked in the top 10 nationally.

During Lawley's two years at Finlandia, she played in 64 games for the Lions and helped lead them to a record of 39 wins and 26 losses. She had a .503 batting average, scored 66 runs, had 99

hits (26 doubles and 17 home runs), 73 RBI, a .893 slugging percentage and a .561 on-base percentage.

Other accolades she has earned include 2014 GSAC Player of the Year, 2014 GSAC All-Conference, and NFCA D-III First Team All-Central Region. She was also named to Finlandia's 2014 Dome Tournament All-Tournament team and earned GSAC Player of the Week twice in 2014. In 2013, Alexis was named Co-Player of the Year for the Association of D-III Independents.

“What an incredible achievement. Alexis is so deserving of this honor,” said coach Brittany Williams. “She exemplified what it means to be a Lion in her two years here at Finlandia.”

“We are very proud of Alexis and all that she accomplished this season,” Williams added. “What she was able to achieve this year will continue to set an example for future student athletes in our program.”





Mark your calendars now for the biggest reunion in Finlandia's 100-plus year history, September 4-6, 2015 right here in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. The university has big things planned, and wants you to be a part of it.

"Bring your sisu and school spirit to cheer the first ever Finlandia Lions football team on to victory," said Cheryl Ries, director of alumni relations.

That football game will be the highlight of the reunion. The game is on Saturday, September 5 as the Lions play their first NCAA-sanctioned football game. Finlandia will be playing against the nearest in-state rival, Alma College, at beautiful McAfee Field. Prior to the game, the office of alumni relations will host a tailgate party. All alumni and friends of the university are invited to attend.

"It will be an event you don't want to miss," Ries said. "We want Hancock to be chock full of Suomi / Finlandia Lions that weekend. We want the whole U.P. to hear our roar at the game Saturday!"

To do that, Finlandia needs your help. Not only do you need to be there, but your help is needed to reach out to other alumni and friends of the university. The office of alumni relations has posted class lists on our alumni association Facebook page, and would appreciate your help looking through the lists. Like the page by searching "Suomi College / Finlandia University Alumni Association" on Facebook.

"Take a look at the lists, and help us find some of your fellow alumni," Ries said.

The all-school reunion isn't just about the football game, though. Finlandia will have many other events going on that weekend, including student-led school tours, which will help you see the latest improvements that have taken place since you called Finlandia "home." These tours will include the opportunity to see the recently revamped Servant Leadership House, which you may remember as Robinson House or International House.

Finlandia will also have information on the next steps the university is taking. Big things are happening in Hancock, including an effort to restore Old Main, a complete renovation of the old Hancock Central High School into the College of Health Sciences and of course the constant improvements at our Jutila Center on the shores of the Portage Lake Shipping Canal.

The Alumni Banquet will be Friday, September 4. The event will include presenting awards to alumni from the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005.

There is still a lot of planning and work to be done to prepare for the event. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact the office of alumni relations.



As the event gets closer updates will be posted on the alumni section of our website (go to [www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu) and click "Alumni & Friends" on top). We will also be posting information on lodging options. Currently, a block of rooms has been reserved with special rates at the Ramada Inn in Hancock. Call 877-482-8400 to reserve your room now.

As always, feel free to reach out to the office of alumni relations about any ideas or concerns. Finlandia is looking forward to seeing you next September, or sooner, here in the Keweenaw.



## FINLANDIA ALUMNI BOARD WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS

The Finlandia Alumni Board has new leadership. Gary Montgomery, '83, is the new president, Erica Roell, '07, is vice president, and Holly Matson, '13, is secretary. The board features 17 members, representing six decades of Suomi College / Finlandia University alumni. The earliest graduate year represented is 1951.

"We have a great leadership team, and energized board members," said Montgomery, who has been a board member since its inception. "I look forward to working with our board to create and sustain connectivity with Finlandia, connectivity with alumni and connectivity with current students."

Montgomery lives and works in the Detroit metro area, where he has been working in information technology

since graduating from Suomi College. Currently he is Global Sales Executive within the manufacturing-supply chain vertical, responsible for developing his company's platform, marketing, sales and telematics solutions for the company's global clients and their suppliers.

"My involvement with the Finlandia Alumni Board has been a real treat," Montgomery said. "Visiting with President Philip Johnson, staff, faculty and touring the campus to relive all of those college memories from 30 years' past."

This year's group includes a mix of alumni who graduated from Finlandia and Suomi College. Late this summer the group met for their annual meeting.

"The FAB 2014 Annual Meeting was very successful," said Cheryl Ries, director of alumni relations. "I am excited about the direction the FAB is going and the initiatives they are pursuing. They are creating a more connected culture for all of our alumni."

The board split into several subcommittees that have each defined goals to help the university during the 2014-15 school year, including the development of mentoring services and the creation of an alumni newsletter. Check out the alumni and friends section of the Finlandia website to see a full list of FAB members.

## Alumni News

**YANA D. WEGLARZ ('04)**, BFA in Integrated Design, has opened her own store in Traverse City, Michigan. If you're in the area be sure to stop by Yana Dee, which is on East Front Street.

**VICTOR HARRINGTON ('07)**, BFA in Graphic Design was recently named Director of Marketing at UP Health System - Portage.

**MEREDITH PUOTINEN ('07)**, BFA in Fiber and Fashion Design, started graduate school at Southwestern College in Santa Fe, New Mexico for art therapy this fall.

**TIGER MARCOTTE ('10)**, College of Health Sciences, promoted to Patient Care Manager of two adult units and ECT Department at Abbott Northwestern, a magnet hospital, in Minneapolis.

**JAMIANNE AMICUCCI ('10)**, who went on to earn her Masters Degree in Curatorial Studies, opened her own gallery, The Gray Gallery, in Winchester, Virginia.

**PAMELA KOTILA ('10)**, BFA in Fiber and Fashion Design, and **JESSICA (JUICE) DEMERS ('11)**, BFA in Illustration and Fiber and Fashion Design, are back from three-year teaching excursions in Japan.



**ALISSA PIETILA ('13)**, Communication Major, has been hired as a reporter for the Ironwood Daily Globe newspaper.

**ELIZAVETA MONAKHOVA ('14)**, an exchange student who won the 2014 International School of Business Best All-Around Business Student award is currently working at Bank of America and World Transport Company in Boston. Monakhova is from Moscow, and studied at Finlandia for four years playing on the hockey team.

Original artwork by Finlandia University's **PROFESSOR EMERITA JOYCE KOSKENMAKI** has recently been chosen for the Art in Embassies program by the U.S. Department of State. Four pieces were purchased for permanent installation in the American Embassy in Helsinki, Finland.

Friend of the university **DAVE WIITANEN** was presented the William Thayer Tutt Award by USA Hockey, which recognizes a volunteer who "has displayed selfless dedication to the enhancement of hockey at the grassroots level in the United States."

## CARE TO SHARE YOUR STORY?

The alumni I talk with often tell me their time at Suomi College or Finlandia University was among the best of their lives. After college, the business of life sends us in new directions, and often away from our university friends. Have you wondered what became of your college roommate, or the study-buddy with whom you spent so many hours? Chances are good that someone is thinking of you, too. Now is the perfect time to send me a note, or give me a call and give us your update to publish in *the Bridge*. Enquiring minds want to know what you've been up to! We also invite you to connect with the Suomi College / Finlandia University Alumni Association on Facebook.

Cheryl Ries  
Director of Alumni Relations  
601 Quincy Street, Hancock, MI 49930  
906-487-7317  
alumni@finlandia.edu

## Obituaries

### JAMES E. LAHNALA

54, Cadott, WI, Oct. 21, 2014

### RODNEY UTZMAN

61, Calumet, Oct. 19, 2014

### ETHELYN (REUBEN) DAVEY

86, Hubbell, Oct. 17, 2014

### DOROTHY H. McNAUGHTON

92, Silver City, Oct. 1, 2014

### DON P. BROUILLETTE

65, Lake Linden, Sept. 15, 2014

### MARY K. JARVIS

95, Livonia, Sept. 20, 2014

### EVELYN S. "EVIE" CHAPMAN

80, Ft. Myers, FL, Sept. 5, 2014

### BETTY R. WHITE-PERYAM

96, Houghton, July 21, 2014 - Former employee at Suomi's Coffee Nook

### DIANE MARIE DUFEL

54, L'Anse, July 16, 2014

### GEORGE ROBERT "BOB" BUTLER

85, Centennial Heights, July 8, 2014 - Former Dean of the International School of Business (2001-2006)

### PAULINE EMELIA LASSILA

91, Alameda, CA, June 25, 2014

### BEATRICE MORIN BUTINA

72, Houghton, June 9, 2014

### VIVIAN (MARJONEN) FILIPPI

81, Dunnellon, May 14, 2014

### PAULETTE HENDRICKSON WELLS

Marquette, May 6, 2014

### GEORGE LAHIKAINEN

89, Hancock, May 2, 2014

### ARNE J. SALLI

78, Wausau, WI, April 27, 2014 - Helped form the annual Finnish Folk Music Camp.

### BERTHA ELIZABETH MYKKANEN ROGERS

67, Keweenaw Bay, April 8, 2014 - Bachelor of Arts Degree in rural human service leadership, and Sampo Awards and a certificate in mediation from the former Suomi College. She was named in "Who's Who Among Students in American College and Universities" and received the Copper Country Association of School Board School Service Award.

### RAYMOND C. A. PETERSON

91, Hancock, March 1, 2014

### FORTUNATE H. CURTIS SR.

89, Port Charlotte, FL, Feb. 20, 2014

### ERNEST A. JOHNSON

73, Hancock, Jan. 30, 2014

### RICHARD C. BIEKKOLA

61, New London, WI, Jan. 15, 2014

### LUCILLE L. AITTAMA ('50)

83, Chassell, Jan. 15, 2014

### HILKKA ANNIKKI JUNTUNEN

85, Venice, FL, Jan. 13, 2014 - Former cook at Suomi

### REED HARJALA

64, Calumet, Jan. 11, 2014

### DENISE PALOSAARI

58, Calumet, Jan. 9, 2014

### REBECCA F. WAISANEN ('86)

57, Highland Park, Dec. 14, 2013

### LAURI ISAACSON ('57)

77, Finlayson, MN, Nov. 21, 2013 - Former alumni board president and ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.

### DONNA GAIL HOGANSON

61, Hancock, Nov. 4, 2013

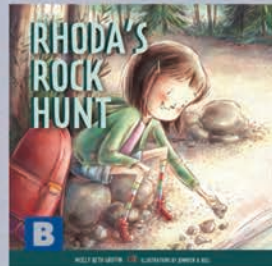
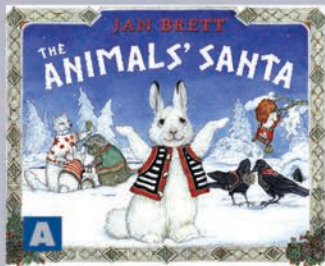
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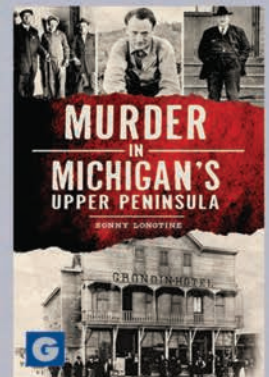
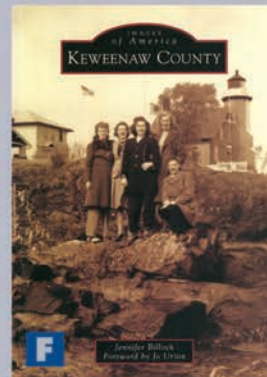
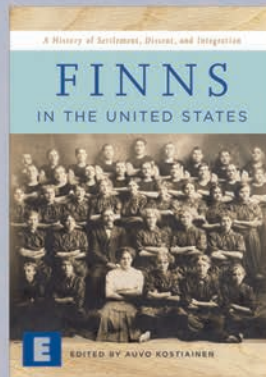
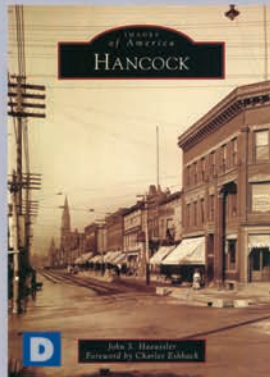
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